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BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

INTERIM REPORT

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the Borough**

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1943.



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Year ended 31st December, 1943.

Medical Officer of Health—John Cleminson, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (Joined H.M. Forces—April 17th, 1943).

Acting Medical Officer of Health—R. Baring Davidson, J.P., M.B., Ch B., D.P.H., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., Barrister-at-Law, Member Royal Sanitary Institute.

Sanitary Inspector—W. J. Eversett, Cert. R.S.I., etc.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—H. Street, Cert. R.S.I.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Congleton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for the year 1943 is still issued in the curtailed form as laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Influenza appeared in epidemic form towards the end of November and lasted about three weeks, the onset was sudden but the period of illness was very short. There were fewer cases among children than among the rest of the population and the youngest death was that of a person aged 60 years. Help in the homes and nursing was rendered by members of voluntary organisations.

Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign—In addition to advertisements in the Chronicle, posters were exhibited on the hoardings and special slides on the Cinema screens, literature on the subject being also exhibited.

Scabies—A special Cinema show was given.

Venereal Diseases—A film on this subject was shown and posters exhibited.

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the kindly help which I have received from the Council and the members of your staff during the past year.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

The customary notes on social conditions are not requested by the Ministry of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1943.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population ... 14,220

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	{	Legitimate	...	209	111 98
		Illegitimate	...	23	12 11
Still births	...	...	...	5	2 3

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid. 1943 16.3

This compares with a rate of 16.5 per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales.

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 21.

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

				Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	...	6	5	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 25.8 per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 28.7

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0.

				Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	...	...	...	174	85	89

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 12.2

This compares with a rate of 12.1 per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales.

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	1	1	0
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	4	3	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	1	0
Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0
Influenza ...	10	3	7
Measles ...	0	0	0
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0
Acute influenzal encephalitis ...	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F) ...	1	1	0
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	0	1
Cancer of breast ...	1	0	1
Cancer of all other sites ...	16	8	8
Diabetes ...	2	1	1
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	26	9	17
Heart disease ...	36	19	17
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	1	1	0
Bronchitis ...	18	13	5
Pneumonia ...	5	2	3
Other respiratory diseases ...	5	2	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	1	1	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	0	0	0
Appendicitis ...	1	1	0
Other digestive diseases ...	4	2	2
Nephritis ...	7	2	5
Puerperal & post-abortion Sepsis ...	0	0	0
Other maternal causes ...	1	0	1
Premature birth ...	2	1	1
Congenital malformation, birth inj., infant dis. ...	2	2	0
Suicide ...	0	0	0
Road traffic accidents ...	2	1	1
Other violent causes ...	4	2	2
All other causes ...	22	9	13
Totals ...	174	85	89

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

		No. of Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0
Other Maternal causes	...	1
		—
Total	...	1
		—

The Maternal Mortality is 4.2 per 1,000 live and still births.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment, and there does not appear to be any occupation having a prejudicial effect on health.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

No change took place in these services during the past year. The facilities at present available appear to be adequate.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—There have been no new sources of public water supply during the period under review. The Hug Bridge Augmentation Scheme is proceeding and further sanction has been obtained from the Ministry of Health to sink an 18 inch diameter borehole on the Hug Bridge site, which the Council's contractors are now proceeding with.

Heavy demands on the existing resources by Industrial and War causes are constantly having to be met, and it is extremely difficult to meet such needs in dry periods.

In times of drought, curtailment of supplies is inevitable, and very frequently the daily demand exceeds the yield to such an extent as to cause the Service Reservoirs to completely empty during the night.

The water from Forge and College Grounds is chlorinated, and the Buglawton Borehole Supply is treated for correcting plumbo-solvency action of the raw water by the addition of Soda Ash.

Twelve samples of water taken from the Town's supply in various parts of the Borough were forwarded to the Analysts (Messrs. Melling & Ardern, Manchester) for examination, and the results indicated show the water to be of sound and wholesome bacteriological quality.

There have been no main extensions carried out during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The scheme to deal with the drainage and sewage disposal of West Heath and Astbury Village in the Congleton Rural area is still in abeyance owing to present war conditions. Similarly, there has not been the necessity to carry out any sewer extensions owing to lack of building throughout the year.

The Sewage Disposal Works is operating to capacity, and although increased daily flows are continually experienced, due to increased loads from industrial sources such as the Milk Dairies and other factories operating under War conditions, plus Military needs, the Works are maintained and operated in as efficient a manner as possible.

Samples of the 'Final Effluent' at the Works have been taken periodically for analysis by the County Authorities and the results have always proved to be satisfactory.

Public Cleansing.—There has been no deviation from the existing practice in the method of Public Cleansing, Collection and Disposal of House Refuse. Even under War-time conditions a weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained to meet the wishes of the Council.

Trade refuse is collected and disposed of by the Local Authority by arrangement, and under Government War Measures all Butchers' Offal and Diseased Meat is collected and disposed of outside this area under the instructions and supervision of the Ministry of Food.

In the Buglawton outlying area, the closet pails and refuse is collected weekly and deposited on the tip in the country area.

During the year 2,476 tons of Refuse was collected and disposed of at the Refuse Tip, which is also identical with the previous year's figures.

The local Salvage Scheme is in constant active operation in accordance with instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry of Supply. The total of salvage materials collected and disposed of during the year is as follows:—

					Value		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.		£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	113	12	3	725	13	9
Scrap Iron	...	6	3	1	18	8	10
Bottles	...		10	2	2	8	9
Raw Kitchen Waste	...	176	18	2	265	10	4
Bones	...	4	15	3	22	17	7
Rags, Sacking and Trimmings	...	6	3	0	69	4	6
Rubber	...	2	9	3	6	16	10
					<hr/>		
Total	...	310	13	2	£1,111	0	7
					<hr/>		

The destruction of rats on the Refuse Tip is constantly dealt with by the Corporation's Rat-catcher, with special attention at breeding periods to keep the Tip as free as possible of these pests. During the period under review 915 rats were destroyed and burned.

Closet Accommodation :—

Number of conversions from pails to W.C. during 1943 ...	1
Number of conversions from slop closets to pail closets during 1943	0
Number of pail closets in built-up areas	220

Sanitary Inspection.—6 statutory notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector and 3 were complied with during the year. 260 informal notices were served, of which 243 were complied with.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The customary table of activities under the Housing Acts is omitted.

Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	80
Number of families dwelling therein	80
Number of persons dwelling therein	524

NOTE—The above figures are based on the Overcrowding Survey made in 1936.

The housing position in Congleton still continues to be acute, since the demand for accommodation is greatly in excess of the available supply. There is a good deal of overcrowding, and a considerable proportion of this will, I am afraid, have to be regarded as inevitable. It will be necessary for the Health Department to carry out a further Overcrowding Survey as soon as conditions permit.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

Milk Supply :—

Number of visits paid to cowsheds	...	...	145
Number of visits paid to dairies...	...	...	268
Number of producers of "Accredited" Milk 7 of whom are retailers.		...	30
Number of producers of Tuberculin-tested milk		...	0
Number of licenses issued by the Corporation to distributors of Pasteurised milk	...	...	1

Out of 33 mixed milk samples examined for tubercle bacilli, none were found to be positive.

10 informal notices were served with respect to cowsheds and 4 with respect to dairies; all were complied with.

Meat and other Foods.—

Total amount of meat destroyed was 95,848 lbs.

Approximately three-fifths of this meat was taken from casualty animals, and the total weight destroyed also includes all offals. Killing is done here not only for the Borough, but also for a large portion of the Congleton Rural District, and other districts.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

SECTION F.***Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.***

109 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, after a period of closure of the Elementary and Sunday Schools together with exclusion of children of school age from the Cinemas, the epidemic rapidly abated though cases continued sporadically to occur.

204 cases of Measles were notified, being epidemic from the beginning of January until the end of February. The cases were mainly of a mild type and no deaths occurred.

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the past year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total number of deaths from each of these diseases.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the
Year 1943**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	109	94	0
Diphtheria ...	6	6	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	0	0
Pneumonia...	35	2	5
Erysipelas ...	5	1	0
Measles ...	204	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	28	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	2	2	1
Bacillary Dysentry ...	1	1	0

Age Distribution of Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	0	3	6	9	11	56	14	6	2	1	1	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	2	1	0	1	1	3	0	1	4	4	7	11
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Measles ...	8	20	19	17	35	93	5	5	2	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	2	5	3	2	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bacillary Dysentry ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

A diphtheria immunisation scheme is in force within the Borough and the following table shows the extent to which it has been used during the year :—

Number of children immunised, under school age...	...	178
Number of children immunised, of school age ...	...	211
Total number of children immunised since inception of the scheme in 1939 ...	...	2,268

*Tuberculosis.**New Cases and Mortality during 1943.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Up to 1 yr. ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15 ...	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
15-25 ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
25-35 ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
35-45 ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-55 ...	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
55-65 ...	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
65 and upwards ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	5	0	4	2	3	1	1	0

Factories Act, 1937.

No Certificates have been granted during 1943 in respect of Fire Escapes under the Factories Act, 1937.

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor for their help in compiling this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. BARING DAVIDSON,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

